

# **CITY OF FAIRFAX HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Minutes**

July 24, 2023

**Attendance:** Carolyn Sutterfield, Jim Gillespie(new), Suzanne Levy, Anita Light, Michael Borash, Andre Lee, Lesley Abashian(staff)

**Absent:** Andrew Wankum, Debbie DeFalco, Frank Franz.

**Current Vacancies:** Disabilities Board, At-Large Position, Continuum of Care/Homelessness Board (new)

1. **Welcome:** Jim Gillespie, the newly appointed CSB representative was welcomed.
2. **Updates:** Information provided about Fairfax Village in the City (Anita/Carolyn), the Community Response Team (Lesley) and Homelessness Task Force (Lesley/Jim).

Committee members spent time discussing issues linked to homelessness, noting that it is a regional issue, the importance of having a broader view of the issues, the link between homelessness and lack of affordable housing along with current impacts of unhoused individuals in the City- for residents, business owners and those individuals currently experiencing homelessness.

3. **Information:** Lesley reported that the City's Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday October 14. Human Services will have 2 tables- one designated for Fairfax Village in the City and the other a combination of Commission for Women and Human Services. Lesley discussed her focus for the table will include information related to the newly created Community Response Team and crisis services. She encouraged Human Services committee members to provide feedback about additional information that should be made available. Lesley encouraged Human Services committee members to sign up for a table shift.
4. **Information:** Lesley reported that a representative from the City's Planning Commission will attend the October Human Services Committee meeting to engage committee members in the Comp Plan Review Process. The committee is seen as a stakeholder for this process.
5. **Committee Member Quarterly Reports (Highlights)**  
Members' quarterly reports were distributed to committee members along with the Mayor and City Council members prior to the meeting.

- I. **Commission on Aging:** Carolyn Sutterfield reported that the 5-year Shape the Future of Aging Plan was approved by Fairfax County Board of Supervisor, which included recommendations providing a framework for the community to engage in 5 main categories: Services for Older Adults and Family Caregivers; Housing and Neighborhood Supports; Access to Mobility Options: Personal Well-Being; and Economic Stability and Planning. Carolyn is assigned to the Economic Stability and Planning group.
- II. **Library Board of Trustees:** Suzanne Levy reviewed current and upcoming programming at the library. She reported that effective August 28, the library is extending their hours of operation.
- III. **Long term Care Coordinating Council:** Anita Light reported that a program to address social isolation “Care Mobile” has been launched by Service Source. This program was proposed by a work group on social isolation during the height of the pandemic. The Care Mobile will travel across Fairfax County to “meet neighbors where they are”, providing events including pop up shops, aerobic classes, line dancing classes, etc. The LTCCC has also developed a 3-year strategic plan that focus on 3 areas- Advocacy, Equity, and Education.
- IV. **Social Services Advisory Board:** Andre Lee provided an update on different activities going on with DFS including Medicaid unwinding, change in SNAP work requirements and various presentations to the Board from program areas within DFS.
- V. **ASAP:** Michael Borash discussed the ASAP program budget and challenges it is facing related to judges waiving the fee for the program, etc. Case managers associated with ASAP are considered “probation officers”. Program has more of an enforcement focus than a treatment focus. ASAP participants are referred to SUD programs if it is determined their alcohol usage warrants intervention.
- VI. **Other reports:** Health Systems Agency and Juvenile Relations Advisory Council reports were distributed to committee members but members of these 2 committees weren’t in attendance at the meeting. **Question related to HAS report:** What are the parameters used to approve/deny a Certificate of Public Need (COPN) to health care providers.

**Next Meeting Date: October 23, 2023, at 6:30pm**